SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5242**

6	5						2	7
			4	2				
7		9	5		3		4	
	8							5
4	1					6		
5			9			2		8
	6	7		3	4	5		
	4		8		1			
		8						

TRICKY **B5242**

	5							1
9	7			2				
	8	4					3	
		3		5			4	
7			8			3		
8	9			1		2		
	1						9	7
	3		4		7		1	

To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

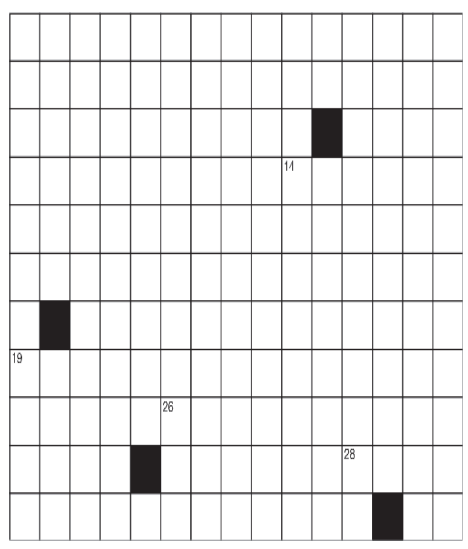
THE SKELETON CROSSWORD

ACROSS

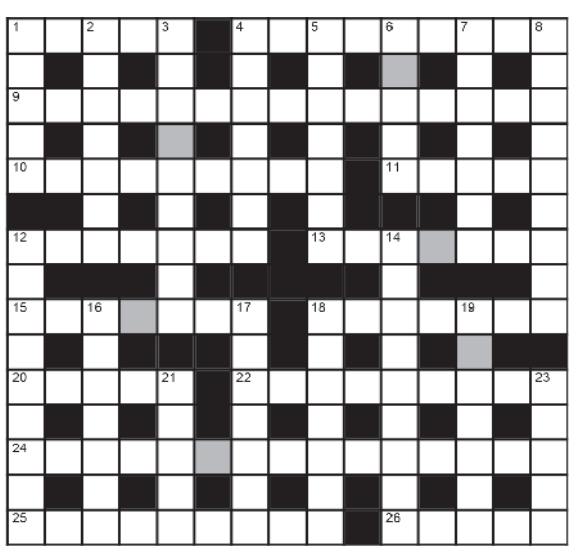
2 Bravado after you call
8 The way many wail
9 Right story, wrong character
10 A key French kinsman
11 He's right in the middle of the ocean
14 Cover model left in shock
18 Hypocrisy a ringer flags
19 Old boxer on a roll before
23 Poor competitor's first game
26 Godless prodigal set a time
27 Garment back to front turned around
28 Nasty king admitted to biting...
29 ...clumsy old lady and youth before wild riot

DOWN

1 Seat oaf's damaged
2 Pressure group story
3 Twisted socialist joke
4 Clean duct ten rule out
5 A single thing, or a couple
6 Valley girl sides with a couple of friends
7 River fish – on the line?
11 Perfect line from mega poem
12 Profligates spreading euros around
13 Dwelling some big lug circles
15 Flushed lady halfway up a tree
16 Twelfth extremely odd sound
17 Composition of a metal, perhaps
20 Agreement to wed Latin hero
21 Vehicle starter to test before drive
22 Nick Nolte's beginning to feel unwell
23 Muse about crude comeback
24 Detachment not computing
25 Gross old lady kept two away



THE SQUIRE'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Allege (5)
4 Bumps (9)
9 H. G. Wells novel (3,9,3)
10 Animal fodder (9)
11 Artificial waterway (5)
12 Suppose to be true (7)
13 Estuarian mire (7)
15 With suspicion (7)
18 Segment (7)
20 Experiments (5)
22 Maintained (9)
24 Italian sound (6,2,7)
25 Very pleased (9)
26 Clothing (5)

DOWN

1 Dice (3,2)
2 Windflower (7)
3 Shop-window figure (9)
4 Cheat (7)
5 Witty saying (7)
6 Light purple (5)
7 In name only (7)
8 Person not in a relationship (9)
12 Rehearsed (9)
14 Dwindled (9)
16 Small falcon (7)
17 Take advantage of (7)
18 Cooked in vapour (7)
19 Send a bill to (7)
21 Overcharge (5)
23 Watch or clock faces (5)

CHESS



WHITE FORCES MATE

HINT: Sacrifice and mate.

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD

VANISHED

(VANISHED: VAN-ish'd: Disappeared.)

AVERAGE MARK 38 WORDS

Time limit 60 minute

Can you find 58 or more words in VANISHED?

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

YESTERDAY'S WORD — RASPBERRY

rare	apse	pare	barer
rarer	saber	parer	barre
rasp	sear	parry	base
raspy	spar	parse	baser
reap	spare	payer	bear
rear	spay	pear	berry
rebar	spear	pray	bray
repay	spray	prayer	brayer
respray	sprayer	prey	easy
aery	spry	pyre	espy
aper	spryer	bare	year

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
PTCL Complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111- 001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

TELEWORD

By David Ouellet

A	C	H	A	T	S	N	E	W	Y	O	R	K	P	R
U	S	R	O	B	H	G	I	E	N	P	L	A	A	I
T	E	R	O	P	F	R	A	N	C	I	S	T	S	P
H	R	B	U	O	O	R	S	S	V	S	S	H	I	A
O	O	O	O	O	N	H	E	E	W	E	E	I	M	N
R	T	T	S	O	H	E	S	O	R	N	M	E	O	O
E	C	N	A	A	K	E	R	I	A	U	A	L	N	I
F	A	L	I	N	N	D	A	V	B	T	G	E	A	S
I	N	Y	A	E	A	N	Y	L	L	E	K	E	C	I
N	E	Y	S	N	O	K	A	N	T	I	C	S	I	V
N	M	Y	I	I	N	M	C	O	W	E	L	L	R	E
E	O	E	L	A	Y	Y	E	O	J	Y	M	M	E	L
J	L	L	R	E	I	V	A	X	N	O	R	B	M	E
G	I	F	F	O	R	D	W	O	H	S	K	L	A	T
M	F	A	Y	L	E	N	O	T	R	E	D	A	M	E

HOW TO PLAY:

All the words above appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and circle their letters. The leftover letters spell the Teleword.

REGIS PHILBIN **SOLUTION: 11 LETTERS**

Actor, Album, American, Amy, Antics, Author, Bishop, Book, Bronx, Chats, Cowell, Crooner, Daniel, Emmy, Faylen, Filomena, Francis, Frank, Games, Gifford, Host, Hours, Jennifer, Joanna, Joey, Joy Senese, Kathie Lee, Kelly, Live, Millionaire, Navy, Neighbors, New York, Notre Dame, Password, Ripa, Simon, Star, Talk Show, Television, Xavier, Yankees **Answer: Personality**

METRO EVENTS

BAZAAR

'Pop-Up Bazaar', an evening full of lights, food and fun, is held at Pakistan American Cultural Center, Fatima Jinnah Road, at 5pm.

SESSIONS

To mark World Diabetes Day, a session is organised by the Diabetic Association of Pakistan at M venpick Hotel at 3pm.

A diabetes awareness session and free health screenings, including tests for blood glucose levels, HbA1c, cholesterol, blood pressure, BMI, etc, is organised at Aga Khan University Auditorium, from 2pm to 4pm.

FESTIVAL

'Sindh Literature Festival 2025' is underway at Beach Luxury Hotel from 10am to 11:45pm.

EDUCATION EXPO

The 2nd day of 'Dawn Education Expo 2025', an opportunity to connect with 100+ international and local universities, and get free visa guidance, is held at Pearl Continental from 11am to 6pm. Entry is free.

PLAY

Didn't Know That About You, a theatrical performance from Norway's artists, is staged as part of the World Culture Festival at Auditorium 1, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 8pm.

HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

**** This is a positive day, and your confidence is strong. It's an excellent time to discuss how to share or divide something like an inheritance. You can attract money, favors and goodwill to you today. Major bonus! Tonight: Listen. This Week: Financial and practical support is helpful.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

**** Relations with partners, spouses and close friends are warm and rewarding today. It's easy to enjoy feelings of peace and harmony with others. You will want to take it easy and relax with friends. Enjoy your day. Tonight: Work. This Week: You're popular and loved.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

**** A feeling of enthusiasm and optimism is in the air, which will make you enjoy whatever you're doing today. You might be excited by a new health regime, a different approach to diet or new ways to enjoy exercise. You'll enjoy your involvement with a pet. Tonight: Play! This Week: You're productive! Patience with ex-partners.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

***** You'll enjoy this day, whether you take it easy and relax or you get out and schmooze. Sports events, fun activities with children and anything to do with the arts and the entertainment world will appeal to you. It's a great day to be on vacation! Tonight: Relax. This Week: Work hard-party hard.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

**** Many of you will kick back and relax today. You might feel good about doing something to make where you live look more attractive. You also might enjoy entertaining a group at home -- family, friends or a specific gathering that has a purpose. Tonight: Discussions. This Week: Positive improvements to home and family!

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

**** Today your mind is eager for new experiences. You want to expand your world in an interesting way. Try out a new activity. Meet new faces; see new places. Tonight: Check your money. This Week: Stay positive! Don't let your insecurities control you.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

**** Trust your moneymaking ideas today. You're thinking big! Your thinking is ambitious, and your ideas might be worth serious consideration. Today you can benefit from financial transactions, even major purchases. Tonight: You're strong. This Week: Pull your financial act together.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

***** This is a wonderful day because the Sun is in your sign dancing with lucky, moneybags Jupiter. It's the perfect time to take stock of what you're doing and see how it fits with your real needs. Tonight: Solitude. This Week: Your life is shifting in a new, more fruitful direction!

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

**** Many of you will relax at home today. Because you feel upbeat and optimistic, enjoy an outdoor walk, a hike or some social activity. Tonight: Friendships. This Week: Be skillful when dealing with ex-partners and old friends.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

**** Enjoy the company of friends and groups today. This is the perfect time to interact with others to accomplish joint goals. However, because today has an easygoing energy to it, you might relax with everyone instead of working. Tonight: You're admired. This Week: Work with others to achieve your dreams.

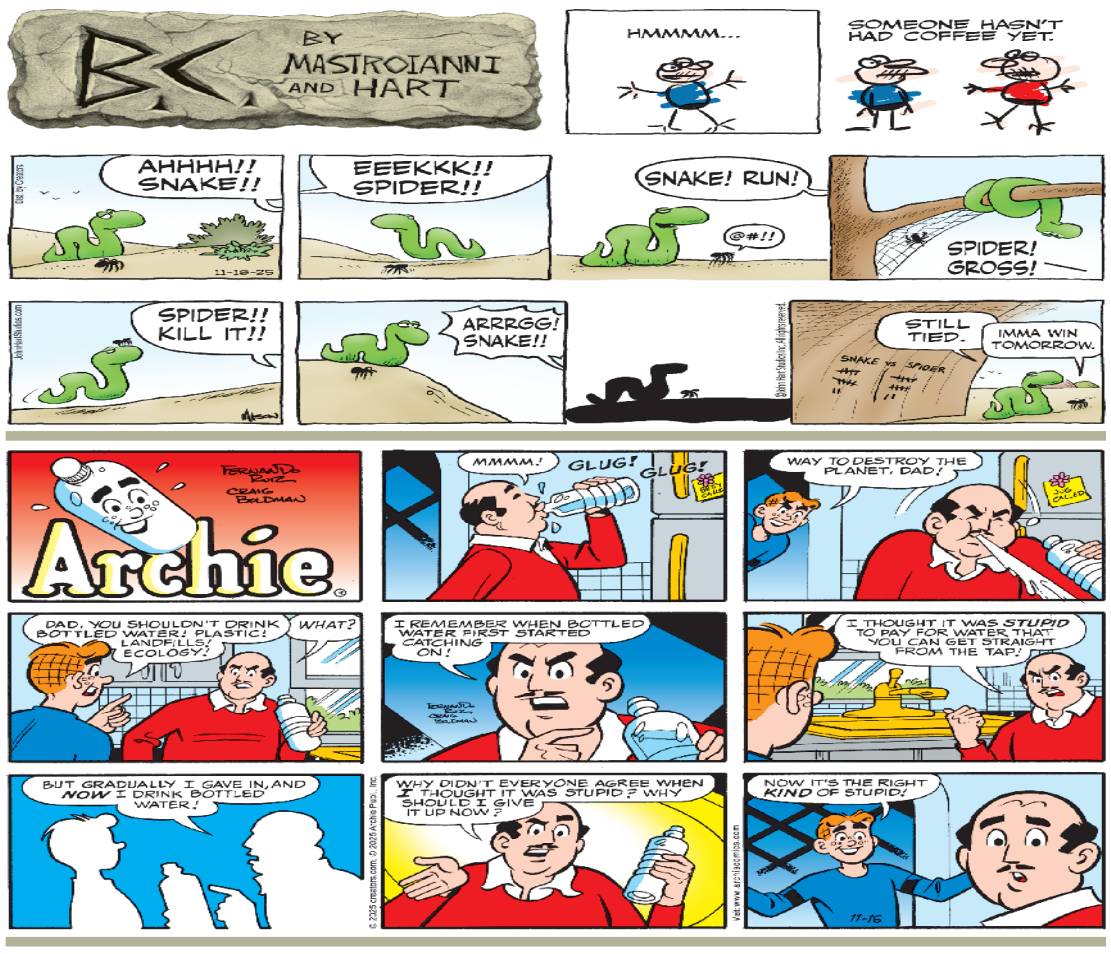
AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

**** You're friendly, warm and genuinely concerned about the welfare of others today. You'll be quick to see overall patterns, which will allow you to act with foresight and consideration. People admire you today! Tonight: Learn something. This Week: You impress authority.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

***** Do something different that is adventurous. You want a change of scenery! You want to be stimulated by new information, new faces, new places -- something different! Explore your daily surroundings or find a new neighborhood. Tonight: Check your finances. This Week: If you believe it, you can achieve it.

THE METRO FUNNIES


BC
BY MASTROIANNI AND HART
HMMMM...
SOMEONE HASN'T HAD COFFEE YET.
AHHHH!! SNAKE!!
EEEKKK!! SPIDER!!
SNAKE! RUN!
@#!!
SPIDER! GROSS!
SPIDER!! KILL IT!!
ARRRGG! SNAKE!!
STILL TIED.
IMMA WIN TOMORROW.
Archie
MMMM! GLUG! GLUG!
WAY TO DESTROY THE PLANET, DAD!
DAD, YOU SHOULDN'T DRINK BOTTLED WATER! PLASTIC! LANDFILLS! ECOLOGY! WHAT?
I REMEMBER WHEN BOTTLED WATER FIRST STARTED CATCHING ON!
I THOUGHT IT WAS STUPID TO PAY FOR WATER THAT YOU CAN GET STRAIGHT FROM THE TAP!
BUT GRADUALLY I GAVE IN, AND NOW I DRINK BOTTLED WATER!
WHY DIDN'T EVERYONE AGREE WHEN I THOUGHT IT WAS STUPID? WHY SHOULD I GIVE IT UP NOW?
NOW IT'S THE RIGHT KIND OF STUPID!
WIZARD OF ID
by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker
EYE OF NEWT, EYE OF SNAKE...
EYE OF SAURON
@#%!
OKAY, HON. CHECK THE NEWS
EVERYTHING STILL SUCKS
BACK TO THE LAB...

PENTALETTA

N		O
	S	
E		H

Can you find 21 or more words containing only the five letters shown on the left? Each word must include the letter in the centre, in this case S, and must contain at least four letters, but there is no limit on the number of times you can use a letter in any word. Your list should include an accepting eight-letter word.

(Solution: next Sunday)

Average mark: 21 words • **Good:** 26 words
Excellent: 32 words • **Incredible:** 35 words

LAST SUNDAY'S SOLUTION:

deer, demur, demure, demurred, demurrer, drum, drummed, drummer, durum, emmer, erred, mere, mummer, murder, murdered, murderer, murmur, murmurer, murre, redder, rede, reded, redeem, redeemed, redeemer, reed, reeded, rudd, rudder, rude, ruder, rued, rummer, udder.

The clued word was: MURMURED

LAST SUNDAY SQUIRE'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Force, 4 Checks out, 9 Conference table, 10 Look after, 11 Syria, 12 Blemish, 13 Taffeta, 15 Arsenic, 18 Chilean, 20 Theta, 22 Apathetic, 24 For the benefit of, 25 Leningrad, 26 Lasts.

Down: 1 Focal, 2 Ransome, 3 Elevation, 4 Cheetah, 5 Excerpt, 6 Kites, 7 Osborne, 8 Then again, 12 Beautiful, 14 Frightful, 16 Swear in, 17 Chamber, 18 Chained, 19 Estates, 21 Ashen, 23 Cuffs.

Prize word: Hyphen

LAST SUNDAY SKELETON SOLUTIONS

	1 I	2 N	C	3 O	N	4 S	I	5 D	E	6 R	A	7 T	E	
8 R		A		V		O		A		U		R		9 N
10 E	V	O	K	E		U		T		11 L	L	A	N	O
F		M		12 R	13 E	P	14 L	A	15 C	E		S		A
16 R	A	I	D		L		I		R		17 C	H	I	C
A				18 R	A	L	L	I	E	D				C
19 I	A	20 G	O		T		L		A		21 E	22 B	R	O
N		E		23 R	E	24 D	E	25 E	M	26 S		A		U
27 E	X	T	R	A		I		Z		28 P	U	T	I	N
D		O		G		G		R		U		O		T
	29 U	N	D	E	R	S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G	

TODAY'S SOLUTIONS

CHESS

1. Qg8ch! Kxf6 2. Qh8ch Kf5 3. Qe5 mate!

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU

Quick — A5241

9	2	4	1	8	3	6	7	5
3	5	1	9	6	7	2	4	8
8	7	6	2	5	4	3	9	1
4	6	9	3	1	5	8	2	7
2	1	3	7	9	8	5	6	4
5	8	7	4	2	6	1	3	9
1	3	5	6	7	9	4	8	2
6	9	8	5	4	2	7	1	3
7	4	2	8	3	1	9	5	6

Tricky — B5241

4	9	5	6	3	1	2	8	7
8	2	1	4	5	7	3	6	9
7	6	3	2	8	9	1	4	5
1	5	4	9	2	3	8	7	6
6	3	8	7	1	5	4	9	2
2	7	9	8	4	6	5	1	3
5	4	6	1	9	2	7	3	8
9	8	2	3	7	4	6	5	1
3	1	7	5	6	8	9	2	4

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

Ingenuity is well-rewarded

West dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 8 4
♥ A Q 7 3
♦ 8 5 4
♣ 8 7 4 3

WEST
♠ --
♥ J 9 5
♦ Q J 10 9 3
♣ A K J 10 5

EAST
♠ 10 9 7 5
♥ K 10 8 6 4 2
♦ 6
♣ Q 9

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 6 3 2
♥ --
♦ A K 7 2
♣ 6 2

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	4 ♠

Opening lead -- king of clubs.

There is a certain compelling logic in bridge that, if followed to its rational conclusion, can sometimes lead declarer to make a play that he would not normally think of or even consider.

Take this deal where West leads the K-A-J of clubs against four spades, declarer ruffing the third round. The contract looks hopeless, since South has only nine tricks consisting of seven spades and the A-K of diamonds. He has no apparent entry to dummy's ace of hearts, his potential 10th trick, nor can he expect the diamonds to be divided 3-3 after West's opening diamond bid.

But South can make four spades in an ingenious manner if he puts his mind to it. When he leads the ace of spades at trick four and West shows out, he learns a great deal about the makeup of the opposing hands.

South has already discovered at trick three that West, who opened the bidding with one diamond, started with five clubs. It is therefore reasonable to assume that West also has five or six diamonds. This means that East started with one diamond or none to go with the four spades and two clubs he is already known to hold. This knowledge can now be put to good use.

Declarer continues with the K-Q of spades, leaving East with the ten, and then plays the A-K of diamonds. If East trumps, he will have to return a heart into dummy's A-Q, allowing South to discard both of his diamond losers. So, let's say East discards a heart.

East's refusal to ruff does not let him off the hook, however. South counters by leading the spade three, forcing East to win and lead a heart to dummy's A-Q. The net effect is that South loses a trump trick he did not have to lose but gets two heart tricks in return. And that is the sort of exchange any declarer should be happy to accept.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.

WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	05:39pm	05:05pm	05:45pm	05:05pm	05:12pm	05:40pm
Sunrise	06:43am	06:37am	06:48am	06:30am	06:45am	06:54am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow			Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook	Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	11	27	Mosty Sunny	60	12	28	Partly Cloudy	12	27	Cloudy
Hyderabad	13	31	Sunny	38	12	32	Sunny	12	31	Sunny
Islamabad	10	25	Partly Cloudy	46	10	25	Mostly Sunny	10	24	Sunny
Lahore	12	27	Sunny	51	12	27	Partly Cloudy	12	26	Cloudy
Multan	12	28	Mostly Sunny	59	12	28	Mostly Sunny	12	27	Cloudy
Peshawar	8	25	Cloudy	56	10	24	Mostly Sunny	10	24	Sunny
Quetta	5	21	Partly Cloudy	29	7	21	Partly Cloudy	7	22	Sunny

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.